

In the Claims

Claims 1 to 19 (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) In combination,

a preparatory machine for sequentially delivering wound laps, each wound lap having a longitudinal axis;

a conveying belt disposed transversely of said preparatory machine for sequentially receiving the delivered wound laps;

means for driving said conveying belt in stepwise manner; and

means located between said preparatory machine and said conveying belt for sequentially rotating each wound lap 180° in a plane of said longitudinal axis thereof and conveying each wound lap from said preparatory machine onto said conveying belt in coaxially equi-spaced apart relation, said latter means including a rotatable shaft disposed perpendicularly of said conveying belt at one end of said conveying belt, at least two receiving means mounted on opposite sides of said shaft, each said receiving means being positioned to engage a wound lap delivered to said conveying belt and to rotate the engaged wound lap at least 180° onto said conveying belt in response to rotation of said shaft and a lifting device for raising and lowering said shaft relative to said conveyor belt.

21.(currently amended) A method of conveying wound laps comprising the steps of

producing a series of wound laps in a winding station, each of said laps having a web wound onto a tube about a longitudinal axis of the tube;

delivering each wound lap successively from said winding station onto a conveyor belt extending in a direction parallel to said axis;

sequentially lifting and rotating each wound lap delivered to said conveyor belt 180° to reverse a winding off direction of the web on the tube thereof;

thereafter depositing each wound lap onto said conveyor belt after said step of rotation;

thereafter driving said conveyor belt in stepwise manner to space the wound laps delivered to said conveyor belt in equi-spaced relation along said conveyor belt; and

conveying the wound laps on said conveyor belt in stepwise manner longitudinally of said axis to a series of combing machines.

22.(previously added) A method as set forth in claim 21 wherein each wound lap is moved transversely of said axis before and after said step of rotating said wound lap.

23.- 32.(cancelled).